perplexity

Publicly Reported Celebrity Friends of Greg Laurie and Rick Warren

Based on extensive research, here are the publicly documented celebrity relationships for both pastors:

Greg Laurie

Politics

Greg Laurie has had documented interactions and relationships with political figures, particularly:

- **Donald Trump**: Laurie has met with President Trump at the White House, attended worship services there, and spoke at a Trump rally in Coachella, California in 2024. He has been vocal about praying for political leaders and supporting Christian involvement in politics.[1] [2] [3] [4]
- **Charlie Kirk**: Laurie had a close friendship with the late Turning Point USA founder. He spoke at TPUSA Faith events and appeared on Kirk's show multiple times. After Kirk's murder in September 2025, Laurie led a memorial crusade at Utah Valley University where Kirk was killed.[5] [6] [7] [8]

Entertainment & Media

- **Mel Gibson**: Laurie has conducted multiple interviews with the Academy Award-winning actor and director, including at his SoCal Harvest Crusade in 2016. They've discussed Gibson's faith and films like "Hacksaw Ridge" and "The Passion of the Christ."[9] [10] [11] [12]
- **Jonathan Roumie**: The actor who portrays Jesus in "The Chosen" and played Lonnie Frisbee in "Jesus Revolution" (the film about Laurie's conversion). Laurie and Roumie have developed an ongoing friendship and have appeared together in multiple interviews.[13] [11] [12] [14] [15]
- **Dennis Quaid**: The actor who portrayed Ronald Reagan in the 2024 film "Reagan". Laurie interviewed Quaid extensively, including at the Reagan Ranch.[15] [16] [17] [18]
- **Kelsey Grammer**: The Emmy-winning actor portrayed Pastor Chuck Smith (Laurie's mentor) in the "Jesus Revolution" film. The film brought them into contact during production.[19] [20] [21] [22]
- **Alice Cooper**: Laurie has interviewed the legendary rock musician about his Christian conversion and faith journey. Cooper's testimony features prominently in Laurie's work on rock stars who found faith.[23] [24]
- **Bob Dylan**: Laurie attended Dylan's 1979 concert in Santa Monica after his born-again conversion and has extensively studied and written about Dylan's Christian faith.[25] [26] [27] [28]

Mentors & Ministry Leaders

- **Billy Graham**: Laurie had a profound 50-year mentorship relationship with Graham starting when Laurie was 18 years old. Graham personally mentored Laurie and offered him a position with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Laurie served on the BGEA board for 25 years.[29] [30] [31] [32] [33] [34] [35]
- **Chuck Smith**: Founder of Calvary Chapel who mentored young Laurie during the Jesus Revolution of the 1970s.[19] [29]

Other Notable Figures

Laurie has also written about or interviewed numerous rock musicians including John Lennon, Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, and Steve McQueen (posthumously through research for his book and documentary).[36] [37] [38] [39] [23] [25]

Rick Warren

Politics

Warren has had documented relationships with political leaders from both parties:

- **Barack Obama**: Warren hosted Obama (along with John McCain) at the famous Saddleback Civil Forum in 2008. Obama selected Warren to give the invocation at his 2009 presidential inauguration. They worked together on AIDS initiatives despite disagreements on social issues.[40] [41] [42] [43] [44] [45] [46] [47]
- **John McCain**: McCain also appeared at the 2008 Saddleback Forum. Warren described both candidates as "friends".[48] [49] [41] [42] [43] [40]
- **George W. Bush**: Warren awarded President Bush the first "International Medal of PEACE" in 2008 for his work on PEPFAR (AIDS relief). Bush appeared at Saddleback's Civil Forum on Global Health.[50] [51] [48]
- **Tony Blair**: The former UK Prime Minister appeared multiple times at Saddleback Civil Forums to discuss faith, globalization, and Middle East peace. Blair serves on the advisory council of the Tony Blair Faith Foundation, which includes Warren.[52] [53] [54] [55] [56] [48]
- **Hillary Clinton**: She appeared at Warren's 2007 Global Summit on AIDS and the Church, delivering a faith-infused speech. Warren invited multiple presidential candidates to his events.[57] [58] [59]
- **Paul Kagame**: The President of Rwanda has worked closely with Warren on the PEACE Plan, declaring Rwanda would become the world's first "Purpose-Driven Nation".[60] [61] [62] [63] [64] [48]

Entertainment & Music

- **Bono (U2)**: Warren has had an extensive relationship with the U2 frontman around AIDS activism and poverty relief in Africa. Bono has called Warren for prayer and support, and Warren prayed with U2 after their tour manager died in 2015. They've worked together on African initiatives for years.[65] [66] [67] [68] [69] [70] [71] [72]
- **Melissa Etheridge**: The openly gay singer-songwriter met with Warren in 2008 after controversy surrounding Warren's selection for Obama's inauguration. They had a respectful

dialogue despite disagreements on marriage.[73] [74] [75] [76] [77] [78]

Sports

- **Michael Phelps**: The Olympic swimmer credits Warren's book "The Purpose Driven Life" with saving him from suicide. Warren publicly stated he prays for Phelps daily and congratulated him on his record-breaking Olympic medals.[79] [80]

Other Notable Relationships

Warren also worked with Peter Drucker (management consultant mentor), has connections to various entertainment figures through his global platform, and has hosted numerous world leaders and celebrities at his Civil Forums over the years.[81] [29] [48]

Key Differences

Greg Laurie's celebrity relationships tend to center around:

- Evangelical conservative political figures (Trump, Charlie Kirk)
- Hollywood actors in faith-based films (Gibson, Roumie, Quaid, Grammer)
- Rock musicians with Christian conversion stories
- Deep mentorship with Billy Graham

Rick Warren's celebrity relationships tend to be more:

- Bipartisan political (Obama, McCain, Bush, Clinton, Blair)
- International and humanitarian-focused (Kagame, Bono)
- Issue-based around AIDS activism and global poverty
- Inclusive across ideological divides (Melissa Etheridge dialogue)

Both pastors have leveraged their platforms to engage with influential figures, though Laurie's connections align more consistently with conservative evangelical circles while Warren has historically maintained relationships across the political and ideological spectrum.

⁂

1. https://harvest.org/resources/gregs-blog/post/why-i-pray-with-presidents/
2. https://harvest.org/resources/gregs-blog/post/pastor-denied-entry-to-trump-event-relates-it-to-not-getting-into-heaven/
3. https://harvest.org/resources/gregs-blog/post/christians-must-be-politically-involved-my-trump-rally-message/
4. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yaRcPoxWNIw
5. https://www.christianpost.com/news/greg-laurie-host-harvest-crusade-uvu-where-charlie-kirk-killed.html
6. https://cbn.com/news/us/massive-outreach-greg-laurie-brings-gospel-uvu-bold-response-charlie-kirk-killing
7. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1GlCGn35Fw

8. https://harvest.org/resources/gregs-blog/post/my-statement-on-the-death-of-charlie-kirk/
9. https://www.phoenixpreacher.com/greg-laurie-interviews-mel-gibson/
10. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbOQy087tYk
11. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3fC6YWTdB4
12. https://www.tbn.org/programs/praise/episodes/greg-laurie-mel-gibson-dennis-quaid-jonathan-roumie-randall-wallace
13. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-5Qjxy5JgI
14. https://www.movieguide.org/news-articles/mel-gibson-jonathan-roumie-talk-faith-focused-movies.html
15. https://www.godtube.com/blog/dennis-quaid-jonathan-roumie-reagan-meets-jesus.html
16. https://www.instagram.com/reel/C9PgmmkpAER/?hl=en
17. https://metrovoicenews.com/pastor-greg-laurie-video-has-jesus-ronald-reagan-talking/
18. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjh53SKdHUI
19. https://www.premierchristianity.com/interviews/greg-laurie-criticising-megachurches-is-like-saying-youre-against-restaurants-with-a-long-line/20387.article
20. https://harvest.org/resources/gregs-blog/post/jesus-revolution-fact-or-fiction/
21. https://www.epm.org/resources/2023/Mar/10/jesus-revolution-movie/
22. https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10098448/
23. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XwA-tPyqjRM
24. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqkzpZYLwTs
25. https://www.christianpost.com/books/greg-laurie-examines-spiritual-biography-of-rock-legends.html
26. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wbrdb5c0xmM
27. https://mycharisma.com/culture/greg-laurie-nothing-ambiguous-about-bob-dylan-s-spiritual-life/
28. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GTUMQ7iuyg
29. https://ministrywatch.com/an-interview-with-rick-warren/
30. https://cbn.com/article/relationships/greg-laurie-billy-graham-man-i-knew
31. https://harvest.org/resources/gregs-blog/post/god-uses-ordinary-people-to-do-extraordinary-things-greg-laurie-reflects-on-evangelistic-calling-and-legacy-of-billy-graham/
32. https://www.beliefnet.com/columnists/christnewstoday/2021/06/greg-laurie-billy-graham-was-the-most-godly-man-i-ever-met.html
33. https://www.accessmore.com/episode/Greg-Laurie-Billy-Graham
34. https://harvest.org/resources/gregs-blog/post/why-i-wrote-a-book-on-billy-graham/
35. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLmzdq2VTMk
36. https://gospelmusic.org/news/greg-laurie-discovers-salvation-in-the-story-of-legendary-hollywood-icon-steve-mcqueen
37. https://tv.apple.com/us/movie/steve-mcqueen-american-icon/umc.cmc.l64xzycoo7mlwbatcfvls8it
38. https://cbn.com/article/not-selected/why-pastor-greg-laurie-made-movie-about-steve-mcqueen
39. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5zAT2njLpI
40. https://time.com/archive/6913945/inaugural-pastor-the-two-faces-of-rick-warren/
41. https://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/07/22/warren.qa/index.html
42. https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Politics/story?id=5586670&page=1

43. https://www.latimes.com/archives/blogs/top-of-the-ticket/story/2008-08-19/opinion-full-transcript-of-pastor-rick-warrens-saddleback-forum-with-john-mccain-and-barack-obama
44. https://www.cbsnews.com/news/crowd-eventually-warmed-to-obama-at-faith-forum/
45. https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/controversy-emerges-over-obamas-choice-of-inauguration-pastor
46. https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2008/08/14/the-purpose-driven-campaign-the-candidates-forum-with-rick-warren/
47. https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/rick-warren-welcomes-obama-brownback-to-saddlebacks-aids-summit/
48. https://www.gospelherald.com/news/rick-warren-tony-blair-talk-about-faith-mideast-9-11
49. https://www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna28298093
50. https://www.christianpost.com/news/rick-warren-pays-tribute-to-bush-s-aids-feat.html
51. https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2008/12/20081201-3.html
52. https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/saddleback-church-hosts-civil-forum-on-peace-in-a-globalized-economy-with-tony-blair-117179293.html
53. https://www.christianpost.com/news/rick-warren-tony-blair-talk-about-faith-mideast-9-11.html
54. https://patch.com/california/lakeforest-ca/ex-uk-prime-minister-tony-blair-and-pastor-rick-warre66117361e2
55. https://www.philanthropy.com/news/blair-charity-links-up-with-religious-groups-for-faith-offensive/
56. https://readthespirit.com/explore/readthespirit-planner-for
57. https://www.newsweek.com/rick-warren-politics-97051
58. https://religionnews.com/2007/12/01/hillary-clinton-pays-a-call-on-rick-warrens-megachurch/
59. https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/remarks-the-global-summit-aids-and-the-church-saddleback-church-lake-forest-california
60. https://politicalresearch.org/2017/07/20/dancing-with-dictators
61. https://www.nplusonemag.com/online-only/online-only/rick-warren-in-rwanda/
62. https://baptistnews.com/article/rick-warren-wants-to-talk-about-the-great-commission/
63. https://time.com/archive/6912970/rick-warren-goes-global/
64. https://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-importance-of-rick-warrens-event/
65. https://www.gospelherald.com/news/rick-warren-prays-offers-words-of-comfort-to-rock-band-u2-following-death-of-tour-manager-dennis-sheehan
66. https://www.movieguide.org/news-articles/pastor-rick-warren-encourages-u2-choose-joy.html
67. https://eppc.org/publication/rick-warren-at-the-may-2005-faith-angle-forum/
68. https://www.patheos.com/blogs/lookingcloser/2005/05/david-brooks-on-bono-rick-warren-chuck-colson-evangelicals-the-culture-war-and-the-war-on-poverty/
69. https://www.premierchristianity.com/home/u2-at-40-how-bonos-band-became-icons-of-rock-by-singing-about-god/3424.article
70. https://thenarrowingpath.com/2013/07/06/u2's-bono-unorthodox-superman/
71. https://www.christianpost.com/news/woodstock-of-global-health-ends-with-solutions.html
72. https://www.nytimes.com/2005/05/26/opinion/a-natural-alliance.html

73. https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2008/12/melissa-etheridge-meets-rick-warren-responds-controversy/
74. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFXULFTtEto
75. https://www.christianpost.com/news/melissa-etheridge-lesbian-spouse-defend-pastor-rick-warren.html
76. https://brianmclaren.net/melissa-etheridge-and-rick-warren-are-getting-it-right/
77. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melissa_Etheridge
78. https://variety.com/2008/biz/opinion/melissa-etherid-41858/
79. https://www.christianpost.com/news/rick-warren-to-olympic-star-michael-phelps-i-pray-for-you-daily-god-has-great-future-for-you.html
80. https://intervarsity.org/news/giving-all-glory-god
81. https://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-rick-warren-movement/
82. https://www.facebook.com/harvest.greglaurie/posts/join-me-tonight-on-praise-as-i-talk-about-proclaiming-the-gospel-in-hollywood-at/1114725920011981/
83. https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10153319174660903&id=34845120902&set=a.101520291413409 03
84. https://www.npr.org/2008/08/04/93260209/planning-a-purpose-driven-talk-with-mccain-obama
85. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQjfwl9oDRc
86. https://www.npr.org/2009/01/18/99529977/rick-warren-the-purpose-driven-pastor
87. https://www.instagram.com/p/DPoTFRhiOlW/
88. https://imprintnews.org/child-welfare-2/clintons-nod-foster-youth-democratic-convention-unsurprising-know/19900
89. https://harvest.org/jesus-revolution/post/greg-cathe-a-hippie-love-story/
90. https://www.tiktok.com/@greglaurie/video/7389986594255768878?lang=en
91. https://www.facebook.com/harvest.greglaurie/posts/if-alice-cooper-is-really-a-christian-why-does-he-still-perform-as-alice-cooper-/10157073784226698/
92. https://www.facebook.com/harvest.greglaurie/posts/the-chosen-star-jonathan-roumie-joined-reagan-star-dennis-quaid-for-a-hilarious-/1061181745366399/
93. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greg_Laurie
94. https://www.facebook.com/AARP/posts/i-just-knew-it-in-my-soulmelissa-etheridge-always-knew-she-was-gay-but-coming-ou/1160626402778072/
95. https://www.facebook.com/harvest.greglaurie/posts/heres-a-fun-video-i-was-with-dennis-quaid-and-jonathan-roumie-recently-since-den/1060514962099744/
96. https://harvest.org/resources/devotion/the-real-stars/
97. https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2008/12/28/677962/-
98. https://abcnews.go.com/WNT/story?id=1363854
99. https://baptiststandard.com/archives/2006-archives/warren-confesses-he-was-blind-to-aids-epidemic/
100. https://www.facebook.com/harvest.greglaurie/posts/bob-dylan-the-untold-story-bob-dylanone-of-the-most-enigmatic-figures-in-music-a/1226266538857918/
101. https://www.voanews.com/a/a-13-2008-08-08-voa3-66759692/563448.html
102. https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7424358/

103. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMUNbduFAa0
104. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34vCjFmkI_E
105. https://www.reddit.com/r/orangecounty/comments/14vykln/what_does_greg_laurie_have_against_pet_owners/
106. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0HkZ1TnjT_M
107. https://harvest.org/resources/gregs-blog/post/an-interview-about-my-son-christophers-passing/
108. https://www.reddit.com/r/Christianity/comments/1l5udf0/was_i_mistaken_in_thinking_that_pastors_like_dr/
109. https://www.facebook.com/NaghmehSPanahi/posts/those-who-have-worked-with-greg-laurie-at-harvest-christian-fellowship-for-decad/10163268621745767/
110. https://julieroys.com/former-staffers-expose-bullying-rick-warren-successor-andy-wood/comment-page-1/
111. https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/pastor-greg-laurie-launches-crusade-110703615.html
112. https://baptistnews.com/article/rick-warren-apologizes-to-women-for-his-previous-views-on-church-leadership/
113. https://www.christianitytoday.com/2025/05/greg-laurie-trump-white-house-prayer-harvest/
114. https://www.facebook.com/harvest.greglaurie/posts/lady-gaga-made-some-surprising-statements-in-an-interview-awhile-ago-her-real-na/1061307135353860/
115. https://www.chron.com/life/houston-belief/article/Rick-Warren-s-biggest-critics-other-1584578.php
116. https://www.facebook.com/groups/1467776407084679/posts/1654706155058369/
117. https://thesetapartwalk.com/rick-warren-and-the-problem-with-celebrity-pastors/
118. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhQifiFGnuY
119. https://firstjohnfourfive.wordpress.com/2011/03/10/rick-warren-tony-blair-the-new-world-order/
120. https://www.premierchristianity.com/interviews/rick-warren-im-embarrassed-by-a-lot-of-things-done-in-the-name-of-us-evangelicalism/15370.article
121. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQQUfZeqmMA
122. https://www.christianpost.com/news/u2s-bono-pastor-eugene-peterson-release-documentary-on-psalms.html